

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 05838 041217Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 /046 W
-----081216 042326Z /13
R 041047Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5838

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-CIO

REF: DUBLIN 1730, MADRID 5604

1. DURING HIS STAY IN MADRID AUGUST 1-3, ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-CIO, HAD OCCASION TO MEET WITH THE AMBASSADOR (TWICE), MINISTER OF LABOR MANUEL JIMENEZ DE PARGA, SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON OF THE SOCIALIST UGT, AND CARLOS PARDO (UGT), IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION) REPRESENTATIVE FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. MR. LEE WILL BE IN BILBAO AND SAN SEBASTIAN AUGUST 4-5 TO CONSULT WITH VICE PRESIDENT JOSE LEUNDA AND OTHER TOP OFFICERS OF THE BASQUE STV.

2. AS FLAGGED IN MADRID 5681, LEE, ACCOMPANIED BY LABATT, MET FOR ONE HOUR ON AUGUST 2 WITH NEW MINISTER OF LABOR. LEE EXPLAINED AFL-CIO INTEREST IN ASSISTING NON-COMMUNIST FREE UNIONS TO STAND UP TO COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC), EMPHASIZING THEIR INTENTION TO STRESS PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMIC TRADE UNIONISM AS AGAINST POLITICALLY-INSPIRED TRADE UNIONISM. THE AFL-CIO WAS NOT PARTISAN TO THE CHOSEN INSTRUMENT THEORY, AND IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 05838 041217Z

PORTUGAL, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS TAKING POSITION THAT THEY WISHED TO WORK WITH ALL THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR ELEMENTS, NOT JUST WITH THE SOCIALIST LABOR MOVEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN, LEE EXPLAINED, AFL-CIO HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBLE PROGRAMS IN GENERAL TERMS WITH BOTH UGT SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO AND BASQUE STV VICE PRESIDENT JOSE LEUNDA DURING RECENT VISITS OF THESE SPANISH LABOR LEADERS TO U.S.

THE AFL-CIO ALSO HAD IN MIND A MINOR PROGRAM WITH CATALAN LABOR ELEMENTS IN BARCELONA (CNT, UGT, SOC, ETC.). LEE FURTHER NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING AGAIN WITH THE UGT AND THE STV DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO SPAIN.

3. JIMENEZ DE PARGA, AS HE HAD WITH THE AMBASSADOR (MADRID 5681), EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENTS ASSIST THE EMERGING SPANISH FREE TRADE UNIONS. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO THE BEST MANNER TO ACCOMPLISH ANY SUCH ASSISTANCE, HE SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED HIS PREFERENCE FOR LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS, NOTING THE WIDESPREAD LACK OF SOPHISTICATION WITH RESPECT TO TRADE UNIONISM AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. THE NEED, HE ADDED, WAS NATIONWIDE. HE ALSO PINPOINTED THE UTILITY OF EXPOSING SPANISH TRADE UNIONISTS TO THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM OF BOTH THE U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE. LABATT NOTED THAT EMBASSY'S INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM GAVE HIGH PRIORITY TO LABOR CANDIDATES, AND THAT MANY HAD ALREADY VISITED THE U.S.

4. THE LABOR MINISTER LAUNCHED A PARTICULARLY EMOTIONAL ATTACK AGAINST THE "RADICAL STANCE" OF THE SOCIALIST UGT, REPEATING EARLIER COMMENTS THAT THE UGT WAS PLAYING THE RADICAL ROLE IN CONTRAST TO THE PSOE'S POSTURE OF MODERATION. IT WAS ABOUT TIME, HE DECLARED, THAT REDONDO GET ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH WITH FELIPE GONZALEZ AND THE PSOE'S APPARENT LINE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 05838 041217Z

RESPONSIBILITY AND REASONABLENESS. THE GOVT WAS UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES INCLINED TO ACCEPT "INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS" SUCH AS MADE BY REDONDO ON JULY 31 AT THE CLOSE OF THE UGT'S SPECIAL WEEK-END CONGRESS. (NOTE: REDONDO, IN A STATEMENT GIVEN PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE, HAD CHARGED THAT "THE GOVT IS RIGHTIST AND WILL DEFEND THE CAPITALIST OLIGARCHY.") JIMENEZ DE PARGA WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE SITUATION WASN'T MADE ANY EASIER BY THE FACT THAT MARCELINO CAMACHO AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SWC WERE IN CONTRAST PROJECTING A PICTURE OF SWEETNESS AND LIGHT IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH HIM. (WE WOULD COMMENT THAT THE LABOR MINISTER HAD GOOD REASON TO BE EDGY, HAVING IN THE PAST WEEK BEEN RAKED OVER THE COALS BY LABOR, EMPLOYERS AND POSSIBLY PRIME MINISTER - SEE MADRID 5745 AND 5681.)

5. DURING LEE'S MEETING WITH REDONDO, THE LATTER DENIED THAT THE UGT WAS FOLLOWING A RADICAL LINE OF ACTION OR BEING UNREASONABLE WITH RESPECT TO THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM. UNLIKE THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS, SAID REDONDO, THE UGT FOLLOWED THE SAME LINE IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS IN THEIR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LABOR MINISTER. IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF

POSSIBLE AFL-CIO ASSISTANCE TO THE UGT THROUGH THE NEWLY-FORMED FTUI, LEE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FUNDS FROM AID FOR A LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAM IN SPAIN WAS VERY MUCH UP IN THE AIR. SHOULD FUNDS FROM AID BE FORTHCOMING, HE ASKED REDONDO WHETHER THE UGT WOULD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING AFL-CIO ASSISTANCE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE ITS (INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS) STRUCTURE, EVEN THOUGH SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD STILL CARRY THE AFL-CIO LABEL. REDONDO DID NOT FIND ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH SUCH A PLAN, AS LONG AS THE CHANNEL WAS THE ITS. SIMON MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE FACT OF LIFE THAT ASSISTANCE FROM WEST EUROPEANS -- E.G. FROM THE GERMANS -- DREW MUCH LESS ATTENTION THAN EITHER SOVIET OR U.S. ASSISTANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 05838 041217Z

6. PARDO GAVE LEE AN EXCELLENT AND VERY FRANK RUNDOWN OF THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN SPAIN, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE METALWORKING SECTOR. HE TOLD US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT THE SPD'S FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG WOULD BE SIGNING A CONTRACT WITH THE UGT SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LABOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE (HEADED BY A SPANIARD) HEADQUARTERED IN MADRID, WITH SIX PROVINCIAL BRANCHES. STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID05838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770280-0331
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770897/aaaademi.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aba5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DUBLIN 1730, 77 MADRID 5604
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1710088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-CIO
TAGS: ELAB, SP, US, AFL-CIO, (LEE, ERNEST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aba5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009